**1640 words so will need some editing**

Love is by no means is an easily defined emotion. It comes in many aspects and forms shown in the many portrayals in books, poetry and film throughout time. The authentic, deep and pure love is one where we see a true bond between people and where they experience physical passion, indecisiveness and vulnerability while the religious and spiritual aspect of love is something much less solid and is harder to describe in words. It is of an ethereal nature and leads love into becoming something more than what is shown on Earth. Finally texts will sometimes show the end and collapse of love, the love that was never meant to be with the characters fighting through and yet ending in tragedy. **Excellent intro in italics following. Very good intro to love above – could be and needs to be compacted** *Both Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s* “Sonnets of the Portuguese" *published in 1846 and F. Scott Fitzgerald’s* “The Great Gatsby” *written in 1926 show aspects of the common story of love.* Both of these writers’ stories were highly influenced by their ***personal contexts and that of their world around them. Browning's sonnets were influenced by her secret courtship with Robert Browning and her father's resistance. Victorian values towards women, marriage and religion also shaped her poetry. Fitzgerald's novel was influenced by his tumultuous marriage to Zelda and the context of post-WW1 America, the Jazz Age*.** These contexts were times of great moral upheaval and social and economic revolution. The attitudes of both contexts heavily affected the multiple forms of love.

Authentic love is something reminiscent of the clichéd “True Love” where the two lovers have deep and meaningful connections. While in essence it remains a two person relationship with differing personalities there is still a deep trust and sharing that occurs. Naturally this leads to a certain amount of vulnerability which can lead to apprehension as shown by a number of Browning’s sonnets. Browning’s emotions towards Robert are shown to be strong and swing from absolute devotion to fear and loss of faith. Browning had been sheltered by the patriarchal Victorian society and was given a traditional upbringing and sent to school where she studied different languages and culture. However Browning was also brought up by her strong Methodist father who wished never to see his children married. Women in Victorian society relied on either their husbands or the male members of their family to support them and Browning was forbidden to marry any man lest she be cut out of the family. She spent many years in invalid, staying at home as a recluse away from society. She wrote a number of poems in this time where she argued against child labour and slavery. She held views on politics and had great knowledge of foreign countries even though many of these attributes for women where frowned upon. Browning was 39 by the time she began her relationship (through letters) with Robert Browning. She was 6 years his junior and was ruled over by her father wishing to keep her away from men. Yet through her poems we see a true relationship developing. **Good points in here but can be edited down substantially.**

**Topic sentence could signal what type of love will be discussed** Sonnet XIII is an example of where Browning’s faith falters and she seeks to keep her love a secret from the world proclaiming that “I cannot teach/ My hand to hold my spirit so far off...” **The sonnet itself** appears to have been a time when Robert asked her to profess their love however using the extended metaphor of the “torch” she says “And hold the torch out, where the words are rough.” This refers to her fear of proclaiming their love in the open where she believes that the cultural indoctrinations of the Victorian era will frown upon it. **Marriage during the Victorian Era was more of a business affair than actual love and meaning between two couples. Elizabeth went against the social standards of the time by looking for true love. She was aware that this may receive ill judgement, especially from her father, and is convinced that there love would ruin them both. This context material could be reduced and textual references, especially techniques, strengthened In the final sextet of the sonnet she refers to her “voiceless fortitude” and that she “stands unwon” fearing that “lest one touch of this heart, convey its grief”. Clearly she feels vulnerable at this point and touches on her past sadness and period of invalid where she feels that her sadness will only bring down Robert. Sonnet XIII proved to be ironic when the “Sonnets from the Portuguese” were released and came to a great amount of fame because of the experience of authentic love between Robert and Elizabeth Browning.**

**Again, what type of love is represented here? Topic sentence should state it Elizabeth Browning’s feeling towards Robert swung often wildly during this time. In sonnet XIV we see a change in Browning’s approach to Robert, she appears to have accepted his love for her and is willing to accept him, however only that he should love her “... for love’s sake only.” The sonnet has the contextual reference in how she quotes the usual lines that men of the time come out with and how she wishes not for this and to stand out against the usual crowd. She simply wishes that Robert love her because of love its self. Browning does not go into full details with this as though she is acknowledging that true and authentic love is beyond description in words through its great power over humanity. Strong language such as “wrought” and “eternity” symbolise this power of love and how that should any false attempts at its greatness be simply “unwrought” and fall to pieces.tending to summarise – representations of love with a few quotes and techniques**

**The idea of the collapse of love can be viewed strongly in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby”. Gatsby was set in the then context of the roaring twenties or the Jazz age. It was the time of prohibition, bootlegging, gangsters and a general corruption of morals. The great boom after the war was spearing forth the American Dream and those with the money could be free to do as they wish while those below were often left behind. James Gatz, as Gatsby was originally known, was one of these poor souls left on the oyster fields alone and without money. It was by his chance meeting with Dan Cody and Daisy that his American Dream took form.**

**The relationship between Gatsby and Daisy had a number of parallels between Fitzgerald’s and his wife Zelda’s relationship. The two stories were by no means based on each other however the folly and collapse of the relationships are evidently linked. However the main reason for the collapse of Gatsby and Daisy’s relationship was that Gatsby was admiring an illusion of the past that nobody could live up to. This dream and illusion was symbolised by Fitzgerald in the green light. In the words of Nick Caraway; “Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us.” These words embody the feelings that Gatsby held towards Daisy. He had not loved a person but an image of a person based on five years’ worth of separation. When Gatsby finally comes back into contact with daisy we see that “Daisy tumbled short of his dreams” for the “colossal vitality of his illusion” warped her into something she could never be. This last bit with text evidence is much stronger. There needs to be a link between the types of love – how is Gatsby-Daisy similar or different to the types of love in the sonnets discussed?**

**The spiritual corruption in the twenties is also evident not so much in the mention of god a faith, but the lack of. The lack of morals from the Gatsby is an immediate connection with the crime, gangsters and speakeasies of the context. The 20’s were when the moral codes of the upper class aristocracy were thrown off (in part because of World War 1) and people began to feel free with their money and felt that nothing, not even god, could stop them.The only real reference to god in “The Gatsby” is through the great eyes of Dr T.J. Eckleburgh staring out over the Valley of the Ashes from the bill board. These eyes represent god watching over the moral corruption of Tom’s womanising, the drunken debauchery of Gatsby’s parties and the death of Myrtle. Spiritual love is lost in “The Gatsby” and inevitably leads to its tragic ending with Tom and Daisy “retreated back into their money”, and George Wilsons murder of Gatsby and suicide. Good point here**

**However Browning’s poetry is a story of success and how the spiritual bond between her and Robert lead to their prosperity in later life. Throughout her poetry there is the reference to souls and life after death. Sonnet XLIII is of Browning’s love which is the complete reversal of XIII. She talks of how she “love thee to the depth & breadth & height my soul can reach.” The repetition is used to give more meaning to her point with the reference of her soul alluding to a spiritual form of love. The sonnet also refers to “grace” and “Saints’ forming the picture of the Christian faith. The Victorians were highly religious and while their marriages were not of love, their weddings were in God’s house of the Christian church. In the final lines Browning writes “and, if God choose, I shall but love thee better after my death.” This line shows the depth of Browning’s spiritual love for Robert and how she truly believes in an afterlife where they both can live in love forever. Spiritual dimension in Browning well treated here**

**The two contexts of the Victorian era and the Roaring 20s are very different. Between them The Great War gave rise to social change which shifted values and ideals. While today we see them as both having a corrupted view on what we believe love should be it was considered right. However through their eye’s it was only what seemed right and therefore, just as Nick Caraway was taught by his father, we must with hold harsh judgment for we know not what their exact circumstances were in and simply compare their view and ideals of love.**

**I presume you cannot write this much in 40 minutes. Work out how much you can write so you know what you are working with.**

**The main weakness I see is not explaining the types of love in the 1st 2 sonnets you discuss. Without that, you don’t have a basis to move onto the novel and discuss a different representation of love. You have a good range of quotes from the poems but need explicit technique terminology.**

**Context material is good but is written in a ‘loose’, wordy style that borders on colloquial at times. The comparison of spiritual dimensions is well done.**

**This would be a high B range (15 or 16), kept back from A by the less than clear discussion of the early sonnets, a relative weakness in linking the 2 texts (spiritual link not included), and a weakness in technique terminology**